



## **DRAFT MINUTES**

### **SUNNYVALE HOUSING & HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION APRIL 25, 2007**

The Housing & Human Services Commission met in a regular session in the West Conference Room at 456 W. Olive Ave., Sunnyvale City Hall, Sunnyvale, CA 94086 on April 25, 2007 at 7:05 p.m. with Chair Timothy Persyn presiding.

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Commission Members Present:** Chair Timothy Persyn, Vice Chair Ann Andersen, Commissioner Micki Falk, Charles Keeler, Patrick Meyering, Mark Johnson and Patricia Plant

**Commission Members Excused Absent:** Damon Kali

**Commission Members Unexcused Absent:** None

**Staff:** Annabel Yurutucu, Housing Officer; Jennifer Rettick, Administrative Aide; Ernie DeFrenchie, Affordable Housing Manager; Robert Walker Assistant City Manager; Janice Clark, Deputy City Clerk; and Jennifer Coile, Housing Consultant

#### **PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS**

NONE

#### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

NONE

#### **CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

NONE

#### **PUBLIC HEARINGS/GENERAL BUSINESS**

- A. Ratify or reconsider funding recommendations for Outside groups receiving FY 2007-08: funding of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Funds.**

The Housing Officer thanked the Commission for attending this additional meeting. Additionally she clarified and apologized for a portion of the process that may or may not have been clear to the Commission. In the past, staff had provided only prior years past performance and evaluations of the proposals to HHSC. During the past year there have been many adjustments and modifications to the Outside Group Funding process. Last April, the Human Services Policy was modified and that was discussed by the HHSC. In October, and November of 2006, the HHSC identified service gaps to be carried forward to Council. These service gaps were discussed by Council in December. Council and senior staff were concerned that priorities for funding of agencies be included in the outside group funding process. They were also concerned about providing the Commission with a clearer and more detailed background as to the perceived needs and identified community priorities in Sunnyvale at the current time. The entire review process and evaluation process had not been developed by staff early enough to provide a greater participation by the Commission, and staff apologized for this. However, the Commission is not required to choose the same priority needs as the staff recommendation.

The Housing Officer explained the Commissions packet containing the averaged ratings of the agencies that were provided individually by the Commissioners in a previous meeting, and the tier system that was developed by the HHSC to allocate the funding. Staff encouraged the Commission to make sure that all the information is correct and to please provide staff with any changes.

Chair Persyn opened the floor for Commissioner comments. Commissioner Johnson stated that there may be an error under the Santa Clara Blind Center under Tier 2, the funding recommendation should be \$9,000. The Housing Officer stated that Outreach and Escort was the only agency to get \$10,000. Commissioner Johnson disagreed and stated that the 2 new agencies were both assigned \$10,000. The Housing Officer commented that staff would be happy to check the notes and make sure that was not an error. The Commissioner stated that he is quite certain that he is correct. Chair Persyn stated that staff can review the previous minutes to check what the Commission had voted on as far as funding within the tiers ranking system.

Commissioner Johnson asks about time to discuss alternatives for funding recommendations. The Chair states that will be after the public hearing.

The Chair opens the floor for a public Hearing. He explained the 3 minutes rule for each speaker to speak.

Commissioner Falk asked if there will be an opportunity for the Commissioners to ask each speaker a question. Chair Persyn stated that will be allowed.

Iris Ann Nelson representing Sunnyvale Community Services started by explaining that she is representing Nancy Tivol, Director, whom is unavailable to speak at this time.

She thanked the Commission for the high ranking and the increase of General Funds recommended to Council on May 8<sup>th</sup>. She stated that there are increased needs in Sunnyvale for low income families and seniors. Although the funding level is the highest compared to any other agency, and any cuts will also have the highest impact. She stated that \$30,000 represents a half loaded 53 foot truck of food purchased annually with a 50%-60% discount; the eviction of 30 families, pays for prescriptions for 100 seniors and pays for the salaries of  $\frac{3}{4}$  of one staff person.

The Chair opened the floor for Commissioner questions.

Commissioner Falk asked about the purchasing of food.

Ms. Nelson stated that they do purchase food from Second Harvest Food Bank, grocery stores, various food banks and church donations.

Kim Firm from Cupertino Community Services provided the Commission with an update.

She thanked the City for the support for a rotating shelter program for men who are looking for work and are homeless and in need of time to regroup.

The Chair opened the floor for Commissioner questions.

Commissioner Falk asked if CCS has received funding from any of the churches or synagogue?

Ms. Firm stated that they received a variety of funds. This quarter several churches from the City of Saratoga have made donations.

Commissioner Johnson asked about getting a mobile shower for the facility.

Ms. Firm responded that the residents take showers at the local YMCA and there is no charge.

Commissioner Meyering asked which other cities besides Sunnyvale/Cupertino does the program receive CDBG funding from?

Ms. Firm responds that every city they serve will provide CDBG funds. They received a grant from Saratoga and Los Gatos for the first time last year.

The Chair opens the floor for anyone who wants to address the Commission.

Georgia Bascil from Senior Adult Legal Assistance addresses the Commission. She comments that she just learned that SALA is being recommended for 80% funding, which is a 20% cut. The cut will greatly reduce the legal services provided to seniors. She was not aware why the funding was reduced and commented that it would be helpful to know how these numbers came about.

Commissioner Johnson commented that it would be appropriate for one of the Commissioners to explain the process and the explanation for the funding cut.

The Housing Officer noted that there was a \$40,000 reduction of funds available in CDBG funds. Most of the agencies obviously will be experiencing funding cuts due to this.

Commissioner Meyering commented that the reason the calculations are public domain's is because we are allocating public funds and how we came to our recommendations is clearly the public's business. He further stated that we should offer a couple of sentences of explanation. There are two recommendations, one the Commission came to last week and the Staff's recommendation.

Commissioner Meyering continued to explain that the staff is recommending \$6,957, 85% of last year's funding and states that the Commission is recommending \$6,548, 80% of last year's funding. He states that there was a discussion of the City Council's priorities for funding. It was used in a numerical method to assign points to each agency and how well they met those priorities. He states that he is not sure if he agrees with the process or not.

Ms. Bascil thanked Commissioner Meyering for his explanation of the rationale behind the process.

Commissioner Falk states that the problem is that she is the only one who really understands what SALA does because she has used their services in the past.

Commissioner Johnson stated that his perception was that they were faced with a lower amount and had to figure out how to "divey" it up and Staff came up with a set of criteria and assigned points along with their weighting system. He continued to state that they also came up with an alternative way in which they used a tier system to rank the agencies.

Commissioner Plant commented that she disagreed with Commissioner Falk's statement about the Commission's lack of knowledge of SALA and the services they provide. Commissioner Plant stated that she is very aware of the services SALA provides. She stated that the Commission was provided with detailed information on each agency and the services that they provide.

The next speaker was Linda Chin from the Community Association for Rehabilitation (CAR). Ms. Chin explained the services that the agency provides. She stated that the recommendation for funding is close to what they received last year. Although last year their funding was cut in half and she asks that they get at least closer to what they got previously.

Commissioner Falk asked if they are the only hot water pool site in the area.

Ms. Chin stated that there is only one other site in San Jose and hospitals and clinics do provide warm water pools, however the charge is great.

Ms. Coile asked for clarification of their location. Ms. Chin clarified their location.

Iris Ann Nelson wanted to address the Commission as a former Housing and Human Services Commission Chair. She pointed out that in the past they did not have a criteria, and it was difficult. All decisions were purely subjective. She commended City staff and the Commission on the systems they have developed especially when human services are involved. She also commented that the system that has been developed looks very good.

Commissioner Keeler asked while Ms. Nelson was HHSC Chair, if they had allocations available to satisfy all needs of the agencies.

Ms. Nelson responded that the general funds were never for sure and at her time of service they also had to cut funds from agencies. Also at that time some agencies weren't able to meet priorities and funds were cut from those particular agencies, but that forced them to be more stringent on meeting the required goals.

The Chair opens the floor for questions from the Commission.

Commissioner Meyering comments he would like to ask CAR and SALA questions. He asks CAR if they received the \$3,749 of CDBG funds how much of that would go to administrative costs for monitoring and tracking of CDBG funds expenditure.

The agency staff stated that not a lot of time would be used for that because they have developed an efficient data collection system. Not a significant amount of time.

#### **Commissioner Tindle arrived at 7:44 pm**

Ms. Bascil from SALA comments on Commissioner Meyering's question and states that not one dollar of CDBG funding is used for administrative costs. The funding is used for leveraging and expanding their services.

Commissioner Meyering asks when they do receive CDBG funding what administrative costs that triggers for reporting and tracking CDBG expenditure.

Ms. Bascil stated that they get CDBG funding from seven cities. It's a matter of attorneys tracking their hours on their time cards. They have staff that does data entry but it is all paid for by unrestricted funds. CDBG funding mainly pays for salaries to deliver services.

Chair Persyn closes the public hearing.

Chair Persyn opens the floor for the Commission to discuss item A.

Commissioner Keeler stated that he was absent during the recommendations but thinks that in his absence the Commission did an excellent job. He continued on to state that the Commission did what it was commissioned to do. He concluded by stating that he supports the ratification of the recommendation as it stands.

Commissioner Falk disagreed and thinks they should reconsider. She stated that SCC buys their food from the Second Harvest Food Bank and that she didn't understand the operation. She stated that Meals on Wheels is charging Sunnyvale \$7 a meal for the 18 people they are bringing food to in Sunnyvale. She continued to state that she didn't understand why they are getting so much money, they get funding from the government and where is that money going to. She stated that she felt it was strange they were charging for case management. She concluded by stating that they shouldn't get as much money as they were getting.

Commissioner Johnson stated that he felt the Commission did a reasonable analysis. He stated that he has an alternative idea but is okay with the process they went through. He felt they could do better, but was fine with the outcome. He stated that next year, the Commission should have more time. Overall, he stated that he wasn't "thrilled" with the outcome but ready to ratify it.

Commissioner Meyering disagreed, and stated that he thinks the Commission should reconsider the funding recommendation for the Blind Center. He stated that the Blind Center spends thousands of dollars to track CDBG expenditures for compliance.

Commissioner Plant stated that she is satisfied with the imperfect process. She also stated that she had wished that they had the ability to visit the outside group agencies prior to the funding recommendations.

Commissioner Tindle stated that she would have placed more weight on the trend analysis. She continued to state that staff came up with an excellent product.

**Vice Chair Anderson makes a motion to ratify the recommendations proposed by staff.**

**Commissioner Keeler seconds the motion.**

Commissioner Johnson states that the Commission should give as much detailed information to the Council as possible. He added that he would like to see their comments added to the Report to Council.

Commissioner Keeler reminded Commissioner Johnson that their expressions are in the minutes that are included in the RTC.

Chair Persyn stated that there was a motion on the floor.

Commissioner Johnson stated they would like to see more details than in the inclusion of the minutes. He stated that he would like comments to be added to the Report to Council.

Chair Persyn asked Commissioner Johnson if it was okay for him to wait until Commissioner oral comments. Commissioner Johnson agreed.

The Housing Officer stated that any of the Commissioners can attend the Council meeting and speak regarding their personal comments in the report. Chair Persyn agreed, and encouraged the Commissioners to attend the Council meeting, especially for the upcoming meeting.

Commissioner Falk stated that she would like to go, but the Council doesn't address her topics of interest until 11pm at night.

**Chair Persyn requests a roll call for the motion on the table.**

**The motion passes 6-2 with Commissioners Kali absent.**

### **NON-AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMENTS**

- **COMMISSIONERS ORAL COMMENTS**

Commissioner Johnson noted that he had two items to discuss. He stated that the topic of CDBG funding will be his first topic of discussion. He stated that he thought it would be a good idea to instead of cutting back on the new agencies

funding, the Commission should consider the one agency that withdrew its application for funding and give up those funds that may have gone to that agency to the two new agencies. He stated that the Commission should offer 100% of what they had recommended for last year's funding. He stated that the Commission shouldn't cut back on agencies that have proven to be "tried and true".

Commissioner Keeler stated that the funding from last year was cut from the previous year and reminded the Commission of this and the ramifications of the cuts. He stated that the Commission is very much aware of the funding needs.

Commissioner Johnson introduced his second topic of discussion. He stated that although he doesn't know the details, The County of Santa Clara is considering taking 35 million dollars out of the mental health funding for the County. He stated that they will be cutting a lot of the on going maintenance type of work they fund for individual clients; hoping it gets taken care of when people show up in the emergency room. He stated that after seeing what happened in Virginia with the shooter, he doesn't think it is a good idea to cut mental health. He stated that he would like to see this Commission comment to City Council that they send a resolution to the Santa Clara County Supervisor that objects to this plan.

Commissioner Meyering stated that he supports that the Commission comment to City Council to send a resolution to the Santa Clara County Supervisor regarding the 35 million dollar cut.

Assistant City Manager stated that the Commission can request that Staff include this topic as an agenda item in the future to be addressed then. The Housing Officer stated that staff would be happy to further address this topic in a future meeting.

Commissioner Johnson stated that Santa Clara County was deciding on this funding cut sooner than the Commission would be able to meet and discuss it further.

Chair Persyn stated that the Commission has worked very hard over the past months and suggests the Commission cancel the May meeting and meet in June.

The Housing Officer stated that there are no items in the Work Plan.

Chair Persyn recommends to staff to notify the Commissioners that the May meeting will be canceled and that they will meet in June. No objections were made by the Commission.



Commissioner Johnson stated that the Redevelopment plan for the mobile home park should be discussed by the HHSC. He stated that it involved moving people of a lower income. He asked how this was going to be handled.

Commissioner Anderson reminded Commissioner Johnson that they are addressing that issue at the June meeting and it is expected to be a comprehensive presentation by members of staff and further individuals involved in the Redevelopment Plan.

Commissioner Johnson stated that it would be easier if staff would bring such topics to the Commission's attention because those types of things are hard to keep track of.

●STAFF ORAL COMMENTS

Ms. Coile stated that the agencies are very gracious in helping with the logistics of the tours for the Commissioners appointments. She stated that she has heard from all Commissioners except Commissioner Tindle. She asks if there are any last minute changes from the Commissioners.

INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Persyn adjourned the meeting at 8:18 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Annabel Yurutucu  
Housing Officer

